

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

DODE-00 IO-10 /045 W

----- 035938

R 081012Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5075

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T RABAT 1703

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR XF MO

SUBJ: INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ESTIMATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 71859

1. WE IN MOROCCO ARE OF COURSE FAR FROM FRONT LINES AND DO NOT
HAVE SPECIAL INFORMATION ON MILITARY OR PSYCHOLOGICAL READINESS

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FOR WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HOWEVER, NOTHING WE KNOW, OR HAVE

RECENTLY HEARD, FROM WELL-CONNECTED MOROCCAN SOURCES SUBSTANTIATES ESSENTIALLY GLOOMY AND EVEN ALARMIST VIEW OF SNIE SUMMARIZED REFTEL. FONMIN LARAKI AND OTHERS RETURNING FROM CAIRO AND RIYADH IN LAST FEW DAYS APPEAR UNWORRIED REGARDING PROSPECTS RENEWED HOSTILITIES IN NEAR FUTURE AND EVEN DISPLAY RESTRAINED OPTIMISM REGARDING FUTURE NEGOTIATING POSSIBILITIES. THEY APPEAR EXPECT NO QUICK MIRACLES IN PEACE EFFORTS BUT AT SAME TIME SEEM PREPARED TO SHOW PATIENCE AS NEGOTIATIONS UNFOLD. IN SUM, GOM SIGNALS TO US ADD UP TO IMPRESSION THAT GOM STILL LOOKS TO U.S. RATHER THAN TO ARAB MILITARY PROWESS TO RESOLVE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE.

2. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN STRUCK BY EVIDENT MOROCCAN RELIEF AT MODERATE POSITION ADOPTED BY SADAT IN MARCH 29 ANNOUNCEMENT OF REOPENING SUEZ CANAL AND EXTENSION UNEF. FONMIN LARAKI RECENTLY STRESSED TO ME THAT WAR MADE NO SENSE FOR EGYPTIANS, WHO HAD MUCH TO LOSE BUT LITTLE TO GAIN FROM NEW ROUND OF HOSTILITIES. IN LARAKI'S THINKING, ARABS CANNOT MAKE WAR WITHOUT EGYPT, BUT THERE CAN BE NO PEACE WITHOUT PALESTINIANS.

3. WE HAVE NOTED EXCELLENT REMINDER IN TRIPOLI'S 0392 REGARDING IRRATIONAL ELEMENT IN POLICIES OF AT LEAST TWO PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, LIBYANS AND REJECTIONIST PALESTINIANS. FOLLOWING LARAKI'S LOGIC, HOWEVER, AS LONG AS EGYPT REMAINS RELATIVELY RATIONAL, ARAB FRINGE ELEMENTS CANNOT VERY WELL FORCE A WAR, THOUGH THEY UNDOUBTEDLY CAN IMPEDE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE.

4. ANOTHER SIGN OF MOROCCAN THINKING IS ABSENCE OF ANY INDICATION THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PICK UP OF ANY PLANS TO SEND MOROCCAN TROOPS BACK TO MIDDLE EAST. WHILE GOM HAS MOST OF ITS FORCES COMMITTED TO BACK UP TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST SPAIN, WE BELIEVE THAT IF KING HASSAN WERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT RENEWED HOSTILITIES WERE IN OFFING, HE WOULD WANT TO SEND AT LEAST TOKEN FORCES.

5. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING REASONING, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY REPLIES WE HAVE SEEN FROM OUR MISSIONS IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, WE WONDER WHETHER INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON HAS INFORMATION TO WHICH WE ARE NOT PRIVY, INFORMATION THAT COULD JUSTIFY ASSESSMENT THAT "THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL SECRET

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CHANCE THAT EITHER THE ARABS OR THE ISRAELIS WILL DELIBERATELY OR BY MISCALCULATION RESUME HOSTILITIES AT ANY TIME."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, POLITICAL STABILITY, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT01703
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750121-0768
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750471/aaaacnbc.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 71859
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ESTIMATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PINR, XF, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006